

Proposed Title I, Part A School Improvement Grant (SIG) Waiver Requests

The New Hampshire Department of Education is in the process of applying for the following waivers from the US Department of Education:

SIG Carryover of FY 2008 Funds Waiver

This waiver would allow unobligated/unspent 2008-2009 funds from the Follow the Child-Building Leadership Capacity School Improvement Grants to be carried forward for future use within the updated Title I, Part A School Improvement Grant (SIG). These SIG funds are available to eligible persistently lowest-achieving schools. Without this waiver, a total of \$107,585.46 would be returned to the US Department of Education. These funds were previously allocated to schools, but were not obligated or spent by the current deadline.

SIG Tier II Waiver

This waiver would allow New Hampshire to include in their Tier II list of eligible SIG schools Title I secondary schools not identified in Tier I that either (1) have not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for at least two consecutive years; or (2) are in the State's lowest quintile of performance. This performance is based on proficiency rates on the State's assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics combined.

SIG Timeline Waiver

This waiver would permit New Hampshire SIG participating districts that fully implement a turnaround or restart model beginning in the 2011-2012 school year to "start over" in the school improvement timeline and their AYP status.

SIG Schoolwide Program Waiver

This waiver would allow New Hampshire schools that are participating in the SIG to operate under the schoolwide Title I model, rather than the targeted assistance model, even if they do not meet the normal 40 percent poverty level required to become a schoolwide Title I program. In order to implement one of the SIG models throughout a school, the school must be a schoolwide program.

SIG Period of Availability of FY 2009 Carryover Funds

This waiver would extend the availability of the SIG FY 2009 funds for the New Hampshire Department of Education and districts/schools participating in the SIG to September 30, 2014.

As part of the waiver process, we are posting this information on our website, various public locations and emailing all superintendents directly to share the intentions of the New Hampshire Department of Education and to allow for district and public comments to be submitted. All comments will be submitted with the waiver request to the US Department of Education. To submit comments, please email, call or send a letter using the following contact information by 9:00am on February 7, 2011:

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